

The Invention Claimed Is:

## 1. A board game apparatus including:

a playing board;

said playing board forming a rectilinear grid of at least four rows of squares, at least

5 four said squares per row;

and

a plurality of playing pieces divisible into a first set and a second set of equal num-

ber, said first set being visually distinguishable from said second set,

said first and second sets each comprising at least

10 a plurality of small pieces,

a plurality of medium pieces,

a plurality of large pieces,

and

a plurality of extra-large pieces,

15 wherein said small pieces nest within said medium pieces, and said medium pieces

nest within said large pieces, and said large pieces nest within said extra-large pieces.

## 2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein:

there are four said rows, each said row having four said squares, for a total of sixteen

said squares on said playing board formed into a rectilinear pattern having four col-

20 umns.

## 3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein:

said first set has three first-set small pieces, three first-set medium pieces, three first-

set large pieces, and three first-set extra-large pieces,

and

said second set has three second-set small pieces, three second-set medium pieces, three second-set large pieces, and three second-set extra-large pieces.

4. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein:

said first set has a first exterior color,

5 and

said second set has a second exterior color

wherein said first exterior color is visually distinguishable from said second exterior color.

5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein:

10 said first exterior color is light and said second exterior color is dark.

6. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein:

said pieces are hollow cylinders.

7. A method of playing a board game, comprising the steps of:

providing a playing board forming a rectilinear grid of at least four rows of squares,

15 at least four said squares per row;

providing a plurality of playing pieces divisible into a first set and a second set of equal number, said first set being visually distinguishable from said second set, said first and second sets each comprising a plurality of small pieces, a plurality of medium pieces, a plurality of large pieces, and a plurality of extra-large pieces, wherein

20 said small pieces nest within said medium pieces, and said medium pieces nest within said large pieces, and said large pieces nest within said extra-large pieces;

and

placing said pieces on said squares of said playing board one piece at a time, first one piece from said first set, then one piece from said second set, and thereby alternating

until a continuous straight line of a predetermined number of pieces of one of said sets is formed on said playing board,

wherein said small pieces may be placed on said squares only on empty squares, said medium pieces may be placed on said squares either on empty squares or on top of said small pieces, said large pieces may be placed on said squares either on empty squares or on top of said medium pieces or said small pieces, and said extra-large pieces may be placed on said squares either on empty squares or on top of said large pieces, said medium pieces or said small pieces.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein:

there are four said rows, each said row having four said squares, for a total of sixteen said squares on said playing board formed into a rectilinear pattern having four columns,  
and  
there are twelve pieces in said first set and twelve pieces in said second set.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein:

said first set has three first-set small pieces, three first-set medium pieces, three first-set large pieces, and three first-set extra-large pieces,  
said second set has three second-set small pieces, three second-set medium pieces, three second-set large pieces, and three second-set extra-large pieces,  
and  
said predetermined number is four.

10. The method of claim 9 further including the step of:

first arranging said first and said second sets into three stacks of four nested pieces per stack,  
and wherein

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said pieces may be placed on said squares directly from said stacks only by removing the largest remaining piece of a stack from the top thereof.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein:

when a said piece is placed on a said square, it may be taken from one of said stacks  
 5 or it may be moved from a different square on said playing board onto which said piece had previously been placed.

12. The method of claim 10 wherein:

a piece from said first set may be placed on top of a piece from said second set, having been taken directly from the top of one of said stacks without first having occupied any of said squares, only when said piece from said second set is one piece of a continuous straight line of three pieces from said second set formed on said playing board  
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and

a piece from said second set may be placed on top of a piece from said first set, having been taken directly from the top of one of said stacks without first having occupied any of said squares, only when said piece from said first set is one piece of a continuous straight line of three pieces from said first set formed on said playing board.  
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